



**VISION:** Eau Claire will be a healthy, vibrant, and productive community of exceptional natural beauty.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** It is our mission to provide for the common good and deliver services essential for a safe, sustainable, and engaged community.

# **City Manager**

# Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the ADA this Month

On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities. This legislation established a comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

The ADA and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 give civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities and work to ensure equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities for access to businesses, employment, transportation, state and local government programs and services, and telecommunications.



This month, we are proud to help celebrate and recognize the 25th anniversary of the signing of the ADA, with the theme, "Disability Rights are Civil Rights." Because of the outreach, training and technical assistance to promote compliance with the ADA, people with disabilities now have better access to businesses, buildings, and state and local government programs and services, as well as increased opportunities for competitive employment. Their opportunities for full participation in community life are increasing every day.

# City of Eau Claire Public Spirit Fund – Accessible Fishing Dock

The City of Eau Claire Public Spirit Fund, established with the Eau Claire Community Foundation in 2013, works to support the fulfillment of the City's Waterways Plan by investing in Eau Claire's waterways with two of its first projects. One of the highlighted projects is an **Accessible Fishing Dock on Half Moon Lake**, which will offer community members an alternative access to the fishing opportunities at Half Moon Lake. Over the years, the City has spent considerable resources to improve the fishery at Half Moon Lake.

As we know, Eau Claire continues to demonstrate a deep pride in our community and in our spirit of giving to support the public good. The Public Spirit Fund supports projects that benefit everyone, but that are not adequately funded by other sources. The recently-updated Waterways Plan charges the City to re-invest in its waterways, so a natural place to begin using the Public Spirit Funds is along the city's rivers.

Donations in any amount can be made to the Public Spirit Fund at the Eau Claire Community

Foundation. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.ci.eau-claire.wi.us/residents/public-spirit-fund">http://www.ci.eau-claire.wi.us/residents/public-spirit-fund</a>.

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Popular Website Links: <u>City Website</u> <u>City Calendar</u> <u>City Council Members</u> <u>Citizen Resource Bank Form</u>

<u>Contact Us</u> <u>E-Notifications</u> <u>Social Media Links</u>

# **City Attorney**

# State ex rel. Bollinger, et al. v. City of Eau Claire

This Open Meetings Law case that challenged the legality of the two closed sessions held by the City Council was dismissed on a motion for summary judgment filed by the City. The City Council correctly utilized the two closed sessions to provide negotiation strategy direction relating to the development agreement with Haymarket Concepts and the Confluence Project and provided adequate notice of this lawful purpose. An Order Granting Motion for Summary Judgment was issued in favor of the City on June 23, and costs were imposed to the plaintiffs. The City prevailed, with all issues raised by the plaintiffs being dismissed.



### **Wheeled Transportation Guidelines**

The City now has a set of <u>Wheeled Transportation Guidelines</u> for a quick reference on examples of motorized vehicles and other wheeled forms of transportation commonly used in the city. The chart displays certain information for each form of transportation, including whether a driver's license is required for operation, where the vehicle/equipment may be legally operated, and whether any type of physical protection is required for the operation.

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# **Community Development**

# Eau Claire Summer Fest Brings Strongmen, Superheroes, Yoga, and Classic Cars Downtown

There's a full day of fun activities planned in downtown Eau Claire on August 1, as Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. hosts Summer Fest and Family Night in the Park.

There will be strongmen, classic cars, superheroes, stilt walkers, yoga on a bridge, a movie in the park, great food, and more!

"It's going to be an extremely fun day and night, packed full of so many neat things to see and do! We're planning some great new things, along with some popular favorites," said Salina Heller, Downtown Eau Claire, Inc.'s organizer of Summer Fest.

During the day, four blocks of South Barstow Street, from Lake to Gibson Street, will be closed to traffic, and instead, vendors will be lining the streets. The vendors of the Artist Market that's typically held at Phoenix Park will move to S. Barstow, along with the rest of the Summer Fest vendors. Activities on S. Barstow are from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and then the Great Lawn of Phoenix Park transforms into the magical Family Night in the Park from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.





A bit of a different spectacle will be found on Main Street as the Strongman Showdown will be taking place.

Organizer of the USS-Sanctioned Contest, Michael Stroozas, said the #4 ranked strongman in the world under 200 pounds and the #2 ranked strongest woman in the world under 148 pounds will be at the competition.

The Burger King Classic Car Exhibition will be back again, as well as the petting zoo, pony rides, and inflatables.

It's a superhero-themed Family Night in the Park, with the evening culminating with a showing of Big Hero 6 on a 25 x 14 foot inflatable screen at dark, presented by Citizens Community Federal.

Competitors from the Strongman Showdown will also be there to take photos with kids, and will host some kids' strongmen activities. There will also be a superhero photo booth, superhero crafts, crazy hairdos, tie-dying, inflatables, and food. Members of the Eau Claire Fire and Police Departments will also be there to visit with the kids.

"We want people to dress up as their favorite superhero while we celebrate our superheroes, real or fictional!" Heller said, "The setting for this magically fun night can't be better than having the rivers as our backdrop, and enjoying festivities on the beautiful Great Lawn of Phoenix Park."

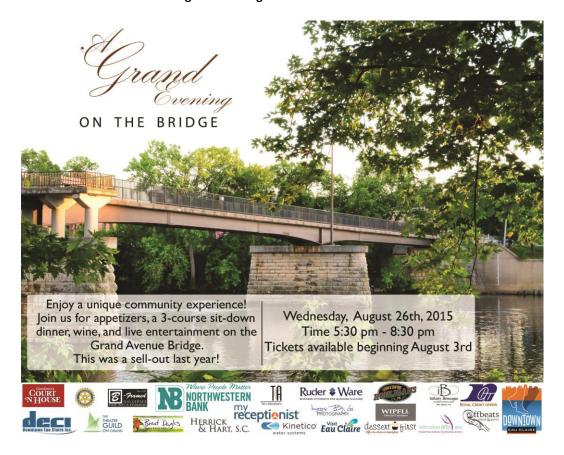
For something new this year, DECI is hosting Yoga on the Bridge. "This is a popular concept all over the country and we'd like to take another step in having people experience our beautiful area by hosting another unique event on a bridge," Heller said.

The one-hour yoga class on the Grand Avenue foot bridge will be designed for all levels and will be led by Amy Erickson of Latitude 44 Yoga Studio.

Erickson said attendees can expect an invigorating class. "We will begin and end with brief meditation, which will bookend a fun yoga session. There are no prerequisites, so if you've never done yoga, have no fear! If you're a regular practitioner, come on out for a change of scenery and a new experience."

Erickson said she's honored to be a part of this new, unique event. "Yoga is fun everywhere, but then, do it on the bridge overlooking the Chippewa River and you've managed to bring it to the next level. The views, the camaraderie, and the experience will be amazing. I look forward to a fabulous day with the attendees!" Erickson said.





### **Inspections Division Report**

Residential building permits issued in June 2015 consisted of 5 single family homes for a total valuation of \$1,335,000. For the same time period in 2014, there were 8 residential building permits issued for a total valuation of \$1,125,000. Total construction valuation through June 2015 is \$6,631,050 compared with \$9,199,901 for the same time period last year.

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### **Finance**

The City was recently recognized as a ConnectWI Gold community for its strong website transparency practices. ConnectWI is a program of the Wisconsin Women's Council, in partnership with the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association. ConnectWI recognizes county, city, village, town, and school district websites that meet transparency criteria outlined in a ten-point checklist. The City of Eau Claire was given the Gold designation because the City's website excels beyond the basic transparency criteria.



Components of the City's webpage that helped the City receive the ConnectWI recognition include information for citizens about joining committees, including a calendar of Council meetings, and providing access to various meeting agendas and minutes. The Finance Department is in the process of improving both internal and external access to information regarding the City's finances. Be sure to visit the City's <u>Financial Transparency Page</u> for information regarding revenues, expenditures, capital projects, and more.

# Fire & Rescue

### **Summer Safety**

We are in the midst of the month that history indicates is the warmest in Wisconsin. While we may long for the heat during a January cold snap, this time of year does bring its own potential hazards, not only relating to how the heat affects us physically, but also the safety of our food at picnics, interaction with animals possibly carrying disease, and severe weather such as thunderstorms and tornadoes.

On its website, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services provides valuable tips relating to summertime hazards, some of which are as follows:

- **Do not** leave any person or pet in vehicles for even brief periods. Temperatures can rise to lifethreatening levels in a matter of minutes.
- ❖ Avoid strenuous activity during the hottest part of the day.
- To avoid dehydration, a conscious effort should be made to drink more fluids in hot weather.
- You may interact with animals and wildlife while visiting fairs, petting zoos, or taking walks in the outdoors; however, ALWAYS wash your hands after interacting with an animal to prevent spread of disease.
- Although safe food handling rules always apply, extra precautions are necessary in the summer to prevent foodborne illness.
- Clean wash hands, utensils, and surfaces with hot, soapy water before and after food preparation—especially after preparing meat, poultry, eggs, or seafood. Separate keep raw meat, poultry, eggs, and seafood and their juices away from ready-to-eat foods. Never place cooked food on an unwashed plate that previously held the above-



mentioned food items. **Cook** – cook meats to the proper internal temperature (see website below for specific temps.). **Chill** – Refrigerate or freeze perishables, prepared food, and leftovers within two hours.



- \* Know where and how to get information in the event of a weather emergency.
- ❖ Make a disaster kit that includes basic items that family members may need in the event of a disaster. Supplies such as food and water should last for at least three days.
- Be aware of neighbors, friends, and relatives who may need assistance during an emergency.

Further information on the above topics and more can be accessed at <a href="https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/climate/weather/summertips.htm">https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/climate/weather/summertips.htm</a>

### Health



### July is UV Awareness Month

As the summer months heat up and outdoor activities abound, remember to protect yourself from harmful UV Rays!

In Eau Claire County, the number of new melanoma cases has **almost tripled since the 1990s**. Melanoma is the most deadly type of skin cancer.



More than 90 percent of melanoma skin cancers are due to skin cell damage from ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure. Below are simple, everyday steps you can take to safeguard your skin from the harmful effects of UV radiation from the sun.

**Wear Sunscreen-** Generously apply broad-spectrum sunscreen to cover all exposed skin. The "broad spectrum" variety protects against overexposure to both UVA and UVB rays. The FDA recommends using sunscreens that are not only broad spectrum, but that also have a sun protection factor (SPF) value of at least 15 for protection against sun-induced skin problems.

**Go for the Shade** - Stay out of the sun, if possible, between the peak burning hours, which are between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Make your own shade with protective clothing such as a broad-brimmed hat, long-sleeved shirt, and long pants.

**Protect Your Eyes-** UV radiation can damage your eyes as well as your skin. It is best to wear wraparound sunglasses with 100 percent UV protection.

For more information on UV exposure and safety visit <a href="www.foh.hhs.gov/Calendar/july.html">www.foh.hhs.gov/Calendar/july.html</a> or contact the Eau Claire City-County Health Department at 715-839-4718.

# Library

# Summer Cinema a Smash Hit Wednesday, July 29 | The Avengers | Meet Local Everyday Heroes



B.Y.O.B (bring your own blanket) for a night under the stars! The library has teamed up with U.W. – Eau Claire and Volume One for Summer Cinema, an outdoor movie series hosted on the west lawn of the Haas Fine Arts Center on Water Street. Activities start at 8 p.m., and the film starts at dusk.

# "Super" Summer Reading Programs Underway @ the Library

June 1 marked the kickoff of the kids, teen, and adult summer reading program. Read or listen to books and earn prizes along the way. Highlights of upcoming youth events include:

- Book Party (school-agers) Tuesday, July 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*)
- **Duke Otherwise (magician)**—Wednesday, July 22, at 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. (free tickets required)
- Live Animals with Zoozort —Thursday, July 23, at 1:30 p.m. (free tickets required)

Stop by the Youth Services or Information & Reference desk for more information, or check out the <u>library</u> newsletter.



#### **Worlds Collide Fandom Ball**

Monday, July 27 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Eau Claire Room

Teens are invited to come dressed in their best fandom costume. The fandom with the most representation wins "Biggest Eau Claire Fandom" title. Who will win – steampunk? Anime? Whovians? Potterheads? Trivia, crafts, photo booth, snacks and more! No registration required.

For information about library services, programs and events, visit the library online at <a href="https://www.ecpubliclibrary.info">www.ecpubliclibrary.info</a>, stop at Information & Reference on your next visit to the library, e-mail the library at <a href="mailto:librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us">librarian@eauclaire.lib.wi.us</a>, or call 715-839-5004.

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# **Parks, Recreation & Forestry**

### Flag Football Registration Deadline July 22

Don't be left on the sidelines this fall. Registration for Eau Claire Parks and Recreation's popular flag football league for third- through fifth-graders ends Wednesday, July 22. The program is open to children entering third- through fifth-grades this fall. The league runs from Aug. 6 through Oct. 27. For more information or to register, call 715-839-5032.

# Early Registration Deadline for Run, Row, Ride Triathlon July 29

Registration is open for Eau Claire Parks and Recreation's <u>Run, Row, Ride Triathlon</u>. The August 8 event is a major fundraiser for the department's youth scholarship program. Participants can compete individually or as a relay in a 10-mile bike ride (helmets required), 3-mile run and 2-mile canoe or kayak (lifejackets required). Cost is \$20 before July 29; \$25 thereafter. Call 715-839-5032 for more information.

### **Chippewa Sand Transport Volunteers Help Prepare New Park**

Employees from Chippewa Falls-based trucking company, Chippewa Sand Transport, recently helped prepare fields for grass seed at a soon-to-open park. The volunteers removed rocks from the baseball and softball fields at Jeffers Road Park before the fields were seeded.

Eau Claire's newest community park is located in the northwest section of town, off the North Crossing. It will feature two Little League baseball fields and three softball fields, as well as a concession area, restrooms and a playground. Depending on how quickly the grass grows, the park could begin hosting games as early as September.

### **Agreement Gives Eau Claire Trees a Second Life**

Eau Claire trees and brush removed during annual forestry operations will gain a second life thanks to a recent City Council agreement. Logs and other woody debris from the City's brush site will be made available to the non-profit Wisconsin Urban Wood, based on an arrangement approved June 9 by the City Council. Wisconsin Urban Wood takes discarded timber, often the result of emerald ash borer preventative logging, and makes the materials available to mills and other businesses that recycle or reuse wood as a sustainable product.

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**Police** 

# **Pet Safety**

Summer is a great time to travel and get outdoors, but both can be dangerous for your pet. The Eau Claire Police Department would like to remind pet owners never to leave your pets in a parked car – even if the windows are open. According to the <u>American Veterinary Medical Association</u>, the temperature inside your vehicle can rise almost 20 degrees in just 10 minutes. In 20 minutes, it can rise almost 30 degrees – the longer you wait, the higher it goes. At 60 minutes, the temperature in your vehicle can be more than 40 degrees higher than the outside temperature. (Even on a 70-degree day, that's 110 degrees inside your vehicle.) This could result in your pet suffering from irreversible organ damage or death.



It's also important to limit exercise on hot days. When the temperature is high, your pet's paws can burn on hot asphalt. Make sure to provide your pet with ample shade and cold water. And don't forget to watch for signs of heatstroke, which includes heavy panting, difficulty breathing and excess salivation. The <a href="Humane Society of the United States">Humane Society of the United States</a> offers various tips on how to keep your pet safe during the dog days of summer!

### **New Police Officer Hiring Process**

In order to fulfill the Eau Claire Police Department's mission, we must find quality individuals that encompass our department's Core Values of honesty/integrity, dignity/respect, commitment, service/caring, professionalism, and lawful behavior. The Eau Claire Police Department is currently in the process of establishing a new hiring eligibility list for the position of Police Officer. Click here for information pertaining to this position – applications are being accepted through July 26, 2015.

# **Public Works**

### Final Stretch of Downtown Construction Began July 6

Work contained in the last block of South Barstow Street and two blocks of Eau Claire Street began July 6. The project replaces utilities and street pavement. It also installs a new sidewalk with additional street amenities, such as decorative lights, benches, trash receptacles and aesthetic paver bricks.

Barstow Street traffic will be detoured to Farwell Street during construction, with an anticipated completion in October before the Fall Festival.

### **Hamilton Avenue Construction to Conclude Before Fall Semester**

Project engineers anticipate work on Hamilton Avenue to conclude before students return to school this fall. The project entails replacing utilities, pavement, curb, gutter and sidewalk. During construction, traffic will be routed to State Street, Lowes Creek Road and Rudolph Road.

### City-Wide Chipsealing Project Began July 13

The Public Works Department began chipsealing about 13 miles of city streets on July 13. Chipsealing is a road resurfacing method that combines one or more layers of asphalt or emulsifying oil with a crushed aggregate, in this case, 3/8-inch fractured gravel.

Most streets should remain open during the project; however, motorists should be alert to temporary traffic signage and parking restrictions. Maps of the project are available on the <u>Public Works Website</u>. More information is available by calling the Street Maintenance Division at 715-839-4963.



# Contract for Parking Enforcement Expires at Year's End

Members of the Public Work's Engineering Division and the Police Department recently met with a vendor to discuss parking enforcement for the city. Parking enforcement is handled by a contractor working with the City. The current contract expires at the end of the year.

As part of the discussion, City staff is using information from the downtown parking study to review parking rates and hours of enforcement. City staff will present proposed changes to the public for comment, once formulated.

### **Unseen Obstacle Slightly Delays Parking Ramp Construction**

Construction of the downtown parking ramp was delayed slightly when crews encountered the foundation of the former Eau Claire Auditorium while installing the ramp's geopier. Geopiers provide support to a building's foundation while also solidifying the soil beneath the structure.

When crews encountered the foundation, they had to remove the foundation in the areas where the geopiers were to be placed. The removal caused only a slight delay in the construction project, as now ramp columns and walls are being erected. The ramp still is expected to be completed by June 2016.

# City Council Meeting Summary – July 13 & 14, 2015

# The City Council

- Held a Public Hearing and approved a site plan in a P-Public District to allow a 95-foot wind turbine for the CVTC West Campus.
- Heard a presentation of the proposed Mobile Food Truck Policy.
- Discussed the process of updating the City's Comprehensive Plan.
- Listened to a presentation from the City Council Ad hoc Committee on Resolution Development.
- Granted new bartender licenses and renewed bartender licenses for the 2015-2017 licensing period.
- Granted Temporary Liquor Licenses to the CVTG Rock 'n Run, to the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Gordy's Valley Spirits "Uncorked" Autumn Wine Tasting event, to the Eau Claire City/County Tavern League and to Midwest Groceries.
- Approved special events, including Zumba in Phoenix Park, the Paul Bunyan Logging Camp U.S.
   Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championship, the Festival in the Pines in Carson Park, and the
   Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. International Fall Festival in downtown Eau Claire.
- Authorized an Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement between Eau Claire County, the City
  of Eau Claire, and the City of Altoona for reconstruction of CTH 'A' (Highland Avenue and
  Spooner Avenue).
- Authorized bids and proposals for City-Wide Street Reconstruction and for Snow and Ice Control Salt.
- Authorized the Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild to conduct the Rock 'n Run at Owen Park.
- Authorized an Offer to Purchase from Silvermine Stone Company for a property on Davey Street.
- Reviewed the 2014 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System.
- Appointed two Council Representatives to the Transit Center Site Selection Advisory Committee.
- Cancelled the Monday, September 7, City Council meeting due to the Labor Day Holiday.

